

SECTION III—REMARKS

This election and amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed September 6, 2005.

Claim 18 is amended to clarify its dependency. Claims 13-20 remain pending in the application.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 26-28 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75 (c) for being of improper dependent form because they fail to limit the subject matter of a previous claim. The Examiner required cancellation of these claims.

Claims 26-28 were cancelled in the preliminary amendment filed with the application. Nonetheless, to confirm their cancellation Applicants have listed them with “canceled” status in this election and amendment.

Election

In the Office Action, the claims were restricted into four groups that the Examiner alleges claim patentably distinct inventions:

Group I, comprising claim 14;

Group II, comprising claims 15-18;

Group III, comprising claim 19;

Group IV, comprising claim 20;

The Examiner indicated that claim 13 links the claims of groups I-IV, and that the restriction requirement is subject to the non-allowance of the linking claim.

Applicants have provisionally elected, without traverse, to prosecute the invention of Group II, comprising claims 15-18. No claims are canceled, and all claims remain pending in the application until the Examiner establishes the non-allowance of linking claim 13. Consideration of the linking claim and the elected claims is respectfully requested.

Charge Deposit Account

Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fee(s) that may be due in this matter, and please credit the same deposit account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

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